

The Ohio National Guard Alumni Newsletter



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April 16, 2010

The Ohio National Guard webpage is: <http://www.ong.ohio.gov/>. Click on Outreach and then Alumni Relations to register for the data base and direct receipt of the newsletter. Please take a few minutes from time to time and explore the entire website, particularly the many recent news releases about your Guard.

121st Air Refueling Wing Welcomes \$6.4 Million Addition. A ribbon cutting ceremony for a \$6.4 million Security Forces/Weather Flight facility will be held on April 17, 2010 at 11 a.m. at the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. "The new facility will provide much needed space for the Security Forces and Weather Flight Airmen," 121st ARW Commander Brigadier General Tom Botchie said. "The space will greatly expand both these squadrons' mission capabilities." The 21,137 sq. ft. facility will be home to the 121st Security Forces Squadron and the 164th Weather Flight. The building will include a weapons vault, state of the art central security control room, administrative space, Guardsmen training areas, computer training and testing areas, a weapons cleaning and maintenance room, a Fire Arms Training System room and a mobility equipment area. As the future home of the 164th Weather Flight, the building will include administrative offices, a weather observation area and a mobility storage room.

The second phase of this project is the renovation of Building 875. This area will be renovated to house the 121st ARW recruiting and retention office and the environmental management section. This phase is scheduled to be completed July 1, 2010. "The project will allow for geographically separated offices to be more centrally located allowing for a more cohesive campus feel," Botchie said.

VFW: Protect Vets from Health Care Penalty Thursday Apr 15, 2010. While the head of the nation's largest organization for combat veterans is pleased that Congress stepped in to assure Tricare beneficiaries that the new health care reform law will not penalize them for having military group health coverage, he says lawmakers need to do the same for veterans. On Monday, Congress gave final approval to the Tricare Assurance Act, which officially exempts Tricare beneficiaries from a health care reform requirement to purchase private health care insurance or face a \$750 annual penalty. The exemption results from declaring that Tricare, as well as health care coverage provided to nonappropriated fund employees of the Defense Department, qualify as minimal essential coverage under the new law.

Thomas Tradewell Sr., national commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars, is urging lawmakers to also send the White House a Senate-passed bill, S 3162, that provides the same exemption for all veterans' health care programs. The bipartisan Senate bill provides specific protection for some dependents' health coverage provided by the Veterans Affairs Department that is not explicitly

mentioned as essential coverage in the health reform law, formally known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Two key House Members— Steve Buyer of Indiana and Howard “Buck” McKeon of California — have called for legislation that specifically protects people using military and veterans health care from being directly or indirectly harmed by health reform, but such provisions were omitted from the final legislation that was signed into law. Tradewell said there is still a chance to act if the House takes up the Senate-passed bill. “There are a few more parts to this mission, which won’t be complete until the House passes S. 3162 and the president signs both bills,” he said.

“National health care will help many veterans who are ineligible for DoD or VA care, but missing from the original legislation was language that specifically recognized all military Tricare and VA programs as meeting minimum essential coverage standards,” said Tradewell, a combat-wounded Vietnam veteran from Sussex, Wis. “That meant stand-alone legislation was required to protect all the health care programs provided by the nation’s two largest federal departments.” There has been some resistance in the House to passing the Senate bill out concern that this exemption could open the floodgate to other attempts to modify or repeal parts of health care reform. Rep. Bob Filner, D-Calif., chairman of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee, said he is not convinced that veterans-specific legislation is needed to clarify anything in the health reform law. If there is any confusion, Filner said he believes an executive order from Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki or Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius would be enough to define VA-provided care as good enough to avoid the requirement to buy private health insurance or be penalized. http://www.armytimes.com/news/2010/04/military_vfw_healthreform_041410w/

Recent News Releases

Pentagon Officials say Green Efforts Paying Off. USA Today, Monday Apr 12, 2010. It’s not just the troops’ uniforms that are green: The military says its investments to conserve energy and water are beginning to pay off, with benefits for cost, national security and troop safety. The Army has cut water usage at its permanent bases and other facilities around the world by 31 percent since 2004, according to Pentagon data. The amount of energy used per square foot at Army facilities declined 10.4 percent during that same period. The data do not include the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, where increased troop levels caused energy usage to rise, but the military currently has several green measures in place there. For example, the military has spent more than \$100 million on “spray foam” insulation for tents in Iraq and Afghanistan, cutting leakage of air conditioning by at least 50 percent. The energy savings usually recovers the investment within 90 days, he says. The military’s green efforts will result in at least \$1.6 billion in savings through the projects’ lifetime, says Joe Sikes, director of facilities energy at the Defense Department. http://www.armytimes.com/news/2010/04/gns_military_energy_conservation_041210/

Bill Would Give More Leeway on Claims Appeals. Army Times, Tuesday Apr 13, 2010. A key senator is calling for changes in claims appeals procedures so that veterans would not be penalized if their service-connected disability prevents them from meeting deadlines for filing paperwork. Sen. Arlen Specter, D-Pa., who was the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee chairman when he was a Republican, said the change is needed as a result of a December federal appeals court ruling

against a Korean War veteran suffering from paranoid schizophrenia whose appeal was denied after he filed it 15 days late. The bill was referred to the veterans' affairs committee for review. Specter continues to serve on the committee but is now the junior ranking Democrat after his party switch last year left him with no seniority. Specter's Fair Access to Veterans Benefits Act, which he introduced Monday, would require the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims to consider if a veteran's service-connected disability would have made it difficult or impossible to meet a deadline for filing an appeal.

http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2010/04/military_veterans_claims_appeal_deadlines_041310w/

Contractor Casualties in Afghanistan. A recent Congressional Research Analysis looked at the number of civilian contractors killed in Afghanistan in recent months. Of the 289 civilians killed since the war began more than eight years ago, 100 have died in just the last six months. That's a reflection of both growing violence and the importance of the civilians flooding into the country along with troops in response to President Obama's decision to boost the American presence in Afghanistan. The latest U.S. Department of Defense numbers show there are actually more civilian contractors on the ground in Afghanistan than there are soldiers. The Pentagon reported 107,292 U.S.-hired civilian workers in Afghanistan as of February 2010, when there were about 78,000 soldiers. This is apparently the first time that contractors have exceeded soldiers by such a large margin. Using civilian contractors to haul food, prepare meals and act as bodyguards has likely kept the Pentagon's official casualty figures lower than they would have been in past conflicts, where contractors were not as heavily used.

Contractor casualties are largely invisible to the public. They are not reported in totals provided by the government. If they were, the death toll in Afghanistan would have surpassed 1,000 -- 848 soldiers, 289 civilian contractors -- from 2001 to 2009. The number of contractor deaths are released only through the Labor Department, which keeps count as part of an insurance program for contractors known as the Defense Base Act. <http://www.propublica.org/feature/contractor-deaths-accelerating-in-afghanistan-as-they-outnumber-soldiers>

This Week in Guard History.

April 12, 1944: Naples, Italy — Second Lt. Ernest Childers, Company C, 180th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division, receives the Medal of Honor from Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers, the U.S. Army's deputy commander for the Mediterranean Theater. Childers, a Creek Indian, joined the Oklahoma National Guard in 1937, rising to the rank of first sergeant by the time the 180th landed in Sicily in July 1943. He earned a battlefield commission to second lieutenant during this campaign. He remained with his company when it landed at Anzio, Italy, on Sept. 13, 1943. His actions nine days later earned him the medal. He is the only Native American Guardsman to earn the nation's highest award for valor.

15 April 1946. Lt. Gen. George E. Stratemeyer, the commander of the Air Defense Command, wrote the Chief of the National Guard Bureau that "The mission of the air national security of the United States . . . has been assigned in large measure to the Air National Guard.

This week in Ohio Guard History

17 April 1861: The 1st Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry was mustered into Federal service, becoming the first Ohio regiment organized for the Civil War. The 1st Regiment was organized from independent militia companies around the state, including the Cleveland Grays, Lafayette Guards (Dayton), Mansfield Guards and Jackson Guards (Hamilton). The Regiment was mustered out October 14th, 1864. It was engaged in 24 battles and skirmishes, lost 527 men in action, and marched 2,500 miles.

11-17 April 1970. Two of the three astronauts on the aborted Apollo 13 moon landing mission were former Air Guard jet fighter pilots. Capt. Fred W. Haise, Jr. had served in Oklahoma's 185th Tactical Fighter Squadron (1957-1959) and Ohio's 164th Tactical Fighter Squadron (1959-1963). Capt. Russell L. Swigert had been a member of Massachusetts' 131st Fighter Interceptor Squadron (1957-1960) and Connecticut's 118th Fighter Interceptor Squadron (1960-1965). Both fliers had been accepted into the astronaut program in 1966.

18 April 1975. Ohio's 145th Air Refueling Squadron became the first Air Guard unit to acquire a jet tanker, the KC-135A. That development was triggered by a 1974 Defense Department decision to save money by transferring 128 older KC-135s to the Air Reserve Components.²⁶

Changes of Command

179th Airlift Wing, 18 April 2010, 1430, Hangar 409, Mansfield-Lahm Air National Guard Base Mansfield, Ohio. Outgoing Commander, Col. Mark Stephens, incoming Commander, Col. Gregory Schnulo.

121st Air Refueling Wing, 2 May 2010, 1430, Hangar 888 at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. Outgoing Commander, Brig.Gen. Thomas Botchie, incoming Commander, Col. Mark Stephens.

Support Company, 216th Engineer Battalion, 1 May 2010, 0700, Camp Sherman Joint Training Site, 2154 Narrows Rd. Chillicothe Ohio 45601-9688. Outgoing Commander, 1LT Scott Ross, incoming Commander, CPT Andy Haap.

1194th Engineer Company (Vertical), 1 May 2010, 0800, Camp Sherman Joint Training Site, 2154 Narrows Rd. Chillicothe Ohio 45601. Outgoing Commander, CPT Adam Sagraves, incoming Commander, 1LT Scott Ross.

1191st Engineer Company (Horizontal), 2 May 2010, 1100, 1620 Coles Blvd, Portsmouth, OH 45662. Outgoing Commander, CPT Dion Goins, incoming Commander, CPT Gene Hancock.

Upcoming Events

Grimes Gathering of B-25s Features Flying Tribute to Legendary Doolittle Raiders. Record number of B-25 bombers to descend upon Urbana for historic celebrations. From April 15-18, 2010, the snarl of radial engines will fill the skies over Ohio as Urbana's Grimes Field hosts the largest gathering of privately-owned airworthy B-25 Mitchell bombers since World War II. As part of the events honoring the 68th anniversary of the Doolittle Raid – including a reunion of surviving Doolittle Raiders at the National Museum of the United States Air Force (NMUSAF) – at least 20 B-25s will land at Grimes Field beginning April 15 for the "Grimes Gathering of B-25s." For the first two days of their visit, Thursday and Friday, the twin-engine bombers will stage out of Grimes Field while practicing formation flights, offering rides and standing on static display.

On Saturday morning, April 17, the bombers will depart for a flight to the NMUSAF, where they will take part in ceremonies honoring the surviving crewmen of the famed 1942 raid on Japan. "This gathering will really help put Grimes Field and the city of Urbana on the map," said Chris Patton, executive director of the Champaign Aviation Museum and one of the organizers of the event. For more information on the Grimes Gathering of B-25s, visit www.champaignaviationmuseum.org/.

Mobile Commissary and AAFES Site Sales. Where: DSCC, 3990 East Broad St., Columbus, OH, Bldg 17, Section 4. When: Saturday, April 17 (1000-1700), Sunday, April 18 (1000-1600). Who: Military personnel (Active, National Guard, and Reservists), retirees, and their dependants with a valid military ID card. Parking is located around Bldg 17 with designated handicap parking. Forms of payment: Visa, MasterCard, Star, American Express, Check and Cash. Items for sale: cereals, laundry & paper products, canned goods, juices, diapers, fresh meat (hamburger, steak, roasts), and produce.

The Pass & ID Office, Bldg 52, will be open as an additional service in providing ID's from 1000-1400 both days to assist military, retirees, and dependents obtain Military and/or Dependent ID cards. To obtain a new ID card, Retirees (Self Sponsor) and Dependents over the age of 18 will need to bring two forms of valid identification with Sponsor present. Valid identification consists of: Military ID card and/or Military Dependent ID card Valid/Unexpired State License Valid/Unexpired State ID Valid/Unexpired Passport Original Birth Certificate with state seal Original SSN Card Original Voter Registration Card Unexpired Permanent Resident Alien Card. Pass and ID will also be available to issue decals for vehicles. To obtain a vehicle decal you must have a valid unexpired State License and valid registration in the sponsor or spouse's name, and Military or Dependent ID card. For additional information contact 614-692-3141.

A second Commissary sale will be held at the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo Express Airport, on Saturday, April 24 0900-1700, and Sunday, April 25 0900-1300.

Farewell Lunch for Col. Mark Stephens, outgoing 179th AW Commander, April 23, 1130, at the Brown Derby Roadhouse, Ontario, OH. The lunch is buffet style for \$10.99. Pay at the restaurant the day of the event. Please reply to SSgt Dawn Hillard at dawn.hillard@ang.af.mil or 419-520-6141 by 20 April if you plan to attend..

ONGA/ONGEA Joint Conference. The annual conferences of the Ohio National Guard Officers Association and the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association will be held jointly on April 23 and 24 at the Faucett Center on the campus of The Ohio State University. For details and registration information, please go the following websites:

Officers: [http://www.ohionga.org/Guard%20Post/2010-01-Guard-Post-web\[1\].pdf](http://www.ohionga.org/Guard%20Post/2010-01-Guard-Post-web[1].pdf)

Enlisted: <http://www.ongea.org/2.html>

179th AW Shadow Flight Alumni Reunion. Invitation to all retirees including non-uniformed personnel and guests to attend the 18th Shadow Flight reunion. Saturday, May 1st, 2010, starts with a social hour at 1800 with dinner and reminiscing to follow. \$31.00 per couple (\$15.50 single), Dress is comfortably casual – sporty. Reservations must be made by April 26, 2010 with checks included. (donations accepted). Dinner to be catered by Port-A-Cook at The Baku Grotto Hall on 747 South Main Street in Mansfield (1-419-756-5742). For additional information and registration materials, please contact Pat Lozier at shadow@kosinet.com.

Retirement Celebration for Brigadier General Jack E. Lee, Commander, 73rd Troop Command Brigade. May 1, 2010 at the Ohio Statehouse, 1 Capitol Sq. Columbus, OH 43215. Social hour at 5:30pm followed by dinner at 6:30pm. Parking under the Statehouse is included with the cost of dinner. Dinner choices include: Chicken Picatta or Vegetable Lasagna for \$40 or Rib eye for \$45. Response is requested by April 12th, 2010. Respond to SFC Annette Wood at 614336-6094 or annette.wood@us.army.mil. Please make checks payable to 73rd Officer Mess Fund. Local lodging is available at the Hyatt on Capitol Square. Go to: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/OhioArmyNationalGuard> before April 16th, 2010 to reserve a room. The Columbus per diem rate is honored. Uniform: Army Dress, Class A or appropriate civilian attire

Military Appreciation Day at OSU Baseball. Bill Davis Baseball Stadium, OSU Campus for the OSU vs. Illinois Game, Saturday, May 8, 2010. Friends, family, teams, groups are all encouraged to attend this event. As long as the group is tied to an Ohio Military Member, everyone can participate. Operation Military Kids will be hosting a Pre-Game Tailgate in the stadium parking lot (parking in the stadium lot is FREE), which will begin at 1100 on May 8th with City BBQ serving food at 1130. Pre-game activities include: City BBQ meal of pulled pork, 2 sides and a dessert. All kids can stand on the field with their favorite Buckeye Baseball player during the National Anthem. The game will begin at 1305. To purchase the special \$8.25 tickets, use the online ordering link below: <https://oss.ticketmaster.com/html/go.html?l=EN&t=buckeyes&o=6882571&q=74>. The promo code is: Heroes. Baseball tickets for children 6 and under are free. Please contact Erin Berry at 614-336-7314 to make meal arrangements for youth ages 6 and under. Please bring your ticket and meal voucher with you to the tailgate. No refunds will be made if the game is cancelled due to inclement weather. If you have any questions please contact Erin Berry at 614-336-7314.

Retirement Party Honoring CSM Bruce Thomas, 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment, Saturday, 8 May 2010, 1800, The Fairways at Arrowhead (Arrowhead Country Club), 1500 Rogwin Circle SW, North Canton, Ohio 44720. Buffet Style Dinner Cost per Person \$25.00. Deadline for Reservations is 30 April. RSVP to Becky Arndt at rebecca.arndt@us.army.mil or 614-336-6100. Make checks payable to Armory Board Control and mail to Becky at AASF #1, 5989 Airport Dr NW, North Canton, OH 44720.

LTC Steven K. Hess Retirement Celebration Luncheon, 13 May 2010, 1130-1300, Sunflower Restaurant, 7370 Sawmill Road, Columbus, OH 43235. Cost: Order from Menu. RSVP to Ms. Pam Tabler at pam.tabler@ng.army.mil or 614.336.7051.

Ohio ANG Annual Awards Banquet, Toledo, Thursday, 13 May 2010. Presentation of the ANG awards will include the prestigious Tappan and Gicale Awards, the Ohio ANG Flying and Ground Safety Trophies, and the individual recognition awards for the Company Grade Officer, First Sergeant, Senior NCO, NCO, Airman of the Year, as well as the Honor Guard Program Manager, Honor Guard Member, and the Human Resource Advisor. This year's banquet will be held at the Toledo Club, 235 14th St. in downtown Toledo. The reception will begin at 6:00 pm (cash bar) with dinner served at 7:00 pm followed by the awards program.

The charge for each attendee is \$40.00 per person. Please make your checks payable to the 180th FW Officers Fund and mail them to the 180th Fighter Wing Attn: Capt Gary Bentley at 2660 South Eber Rd. Swanton, OH 43558. Questions to Capt Gary Bentley at 419-868-4380, DSN: 580-4380 or gary.bentley@ang.af.mil. R.S.V.P. by 06 May 2010.

Armed Forces Day Observance Luncheon. Friday, May 14, 2010, sponsored by: The Military / Veterans Educational Foundation (MILVETS). "Honoring All Who Serve", dedicated to the U.S. Army. Location is the Villa Milano Restaurant, 1630 Schrock Road, Columbus, Ohio. Luncheon and program begins at 11:45 am. Featured speaker: Lt. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley, CG, United States Army Accessions Command (USAAC). Registration: tickets: \$20 prepaid, \$25 at the door, table of 10 \$200.00 prepaid. To R.S.V.P, please call Robert Thurman, President, (614) 855-5456 or Rick Isbell, AFDL Chair, (614) 645-6504.

2/174th ADA Retirees 2nd Annual Golf Outing. A Four Person "Best Ball" Golf Scramble will be held Sunday, May 23, 2010 at Fuller's Fairways, Zanesville, Ohio. Registration begins at 7:30 AM with a Shotgun Start at 8:30 AM. Registration Fee is \$50 per person or \$200 per team (4 Man Scramble Best Ball Format and Scoring). Proceeds from the event will go towards operation of the Retiree Association and to help the Family Support Association to assist Families of deployed Soldiers in need. To register, contact CPT Bob Lytton at 614-336-6727. or by email at robert.lytton@us.army.mil Registration Fee includes: Green Fees and Cart for 18 holes, with Lunch and Beverages to be served during the presentation ceremony at the end of the event.

Military Appreciation Day at the Memorial Tournament, Tuesday, June 1, 2010. All active, reserve, National Guard, retired and immediate family will receive complimentary admission, simply show your military ID. Gates open at 7:00 A.M. Free exclusive PGA/Military golf clinic – 1:30 P.M. Honoree Ceremony – 3:00 P.M. (Seve Ballesteros). Jack Nicklaus Golf Clinic – 4:30 P.M.

COL Daniel L.Tack Retirement Celebration Luncheon, Thursday, June 3, 2010, Crowne-Plaza North, 600 Metro-Place North, Dublin, OH 43017. Time: 1130-1330. Cost: \$20 per person. Duty Uniform. RSVP to LTC Thomas Haidet at thomas.haidet@us.army.mil or 614-906-6482 NLT 15 May 2010. Please make checks payable to 371st SB Officer Mess Fund.

178th FW June Event Celebration and Reunion. The 178th Fighter Wing is holding a Hail and Farewell Celebration and Reunion on June 5, 2010. The 162nd FS will hold a Pilot Reunion on Friday, June 4, 2010 as well. This celebration is to commemorate the outstanding history of excellence by the 178th FW, which has flown U.S. aircraft since 1947. Due to BRAC, the wing will lose its American F-16s this fiscal year. A tail flash and nose art contest is in the works to commemorate this event as well. The Saturday celebration will culminate in a full unit reunion that evening for all former and present members. For information on this event and other retiree information from the 178FW, please go to www.178fw-alumni.com for full details. Please take the time to register on this site to ensure that you receive all the latest information for retirees and former members of the 178th Fighter Wing.

Retirement Dinner for LTC Gerard Garvey, Saturday, 5 Jun 2010, 1800, Clarian Inn and Conference Center, 240 East Hines Hill Road, Hudson, OH 44326, (330)653-9191. Dinner will be buffet style, \$30 per person. Include check with RSVP to SPC Petiya ashley.l.petiya@us.army.mil or 614-336-6963. Please make check payable to: Officer Mess Fund. Mail to: HQ 237th BSB, 4304 Green Rd., Cleveland, OH 44128.

1/137 Aviation Regiment Commercial Point Welcome Home. The city of Commercial Point has been a source of much support to the Soldiers of the 1/137 during their recent deployment. They will honor the unit on Saturday, 12 June 2010, with a parade starting at 1100. There will also be a helicopter flyover and landing at 1230. At 1300, there will be a "Welcome Home Event" at 26 W. Scioto St. in Commercial Point, Ohio 43146. The welcome home event will be a combined effort of the City of Commercial Point and the Battalion's Family Support Groups. Friends, alumni, and family members are encouraged to attend. For additional information please contact Maj. Wayne Thomas at wayne.allen.thomas@us.army.mil or by phone at 614-336-6459.

178th Fighter Wing Golf Outing, Monday, June 21, 2010, Locust Hill Country Club, Springfield, Ohio. Team Best Ball: Shot Gun Start at 0830. Entrance fee: \$45.00 per person. Includes: golf cart for two, lunch, beverages, and door prizes. registration deadline: June 12, 2010. Participation is open to employees and friends of the 178th Fighter Wing active and retired Ohio National Guard members, their families, and sponsors. For additional information, contact Jane Esprit, 5319 Regula Ave. Springfield, Ohio 45502 (937) 525-2583 jane.esprit@ang.af.mil.

2010 Alumni Reunion Date Set. The date and location for the 2010 ONG Alumni Reunion have been established. The date is Saturday, September 18, at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. We are currently developing the program and will have additional information including possible social activities for Friday, September 17, and discounted lodging at a nearby hotel. More information to follow.

37th DVA/148th Infantry Regiment Annual Reunion, August 27-29, Camp Perry Joint Training Center, Port Clinton, OH. Details to follow.

Upcoming Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Meetings Schedule – April 2010

Region 1 – RISFAC Meeting, April 29, 2010, 6:30pm – 8:00pm, Veterans Service Commission of Summit County, 1060 E. Waterloo Rd. Akron, OH 44306, Phone: 330-643-7636. Region 1 - Family Assistance Center Specialist: Joyce Stingel and Melissa Wise. Office Phone: 866-278-5756. Mobile: 330-730-9243
Email: joyce.stingel1@us.army.mil or melissa.wise@us.army.mil

Region 2 – RISFAC Meeting, 21 April, 2010, 6:00pm – 7:30pm, Ross County Service Center Conference Room A, 475 Western Avenue, Chillicothe OH 45601, 740-702-3120 (Roberta Tackett) Region 2 - Family Assistance Center Specialist: Jennifer Moor, Office Phone: 866-270-8283, Mobile: 740-637-0340, Email: jennifer.l.moore2@us.army.mil

Region 3 – RISFAC Meeting, 26 April, 2010, 6:30pm – 8:00pm, Woodlawn Community Center, 10050 Woodlawn Blvd, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215, Phone: 614-336-6714, Region 3 - Family Assistance Center Specialist: Brian Via, Office Phone: 866-278-5757, Mobile: 513-869-9248, Email: brian.via@us.army.mil

Region 4 – RISFAC Meeting, 27 April, 2010, 6:30pm – 8:00pm, Dayton Area American Red Cross, 370 W. First Street Dayton, Ohio 45402, Phone: 937-222-6711. Region 4 - Family Assistance Center Specialist: Jerry Wiggins and Robin Robbins, Office Phone: 866-278-5759, Mobile: 937-751-8472, Email: jerry.wiggins1@us.army.mil or robin.robbins1@us.army.mil

Region 5 – RISFAC Meeting, 29 April, 2010, 6:30pm – 8:00pm, Richland County Red Cross Chapter, 39 North Park, Mansfield, Ohio 44902, Phone: (419) 524-0311. Region 5 - Family Assistance Center Specialist: Margret Szymanski, Office Phone: 866-278-5755, Mobile: 419-494-2959, Email: margret.szymanski@us.army.mil

Region 6 – RISFAC Meeting, 28 April 2010, 6:30pm – 8:00pm, National College, 5665 Forest Hills Blvd, Phone: 614-212-2800. Region 6 - Family Assistance Center Specialist: Angela Dyer and Michelle McMillan, Office Phone: 800-589-9914, Mobile: 614-406-2148, Email: angela.dyer1@us.army.mil or michelle.c.mcmillan@us.army.mil

These are great opportunities for alumni to reconnect with units and learn about ways to support our Guard families.

Call to Duty Ceremonies – none currently scheduled

Welcome Home Ceremonies - none currently scheduled

With sorrow we announce the passing of the following members of the ONG family:

SFC (Ret) Ronald Ropp, March 29, former member of 1-166th Infantry Battalion.

SGM (Ret) John Sidle, April 2, former member of the OHARNG.

SSG (ret) David Jackson, April 2, former member of the OHARNG's 16th Engineer Brigade.

Kathryn Herby, April 3, grandmother of 2LT Jennifer Dallis (S-1 Officer, HQ, 216th Engineer Battalion).

Mr. John Martin, April 4, grandfather of SGT Justin Martin, Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

Mr. John Dean, April 5, father of Lezlie Garcia, Family Readiness Support Assistant for the 37th IBCT and father-in-law of MAJ Fred Garcia, 371st SUS Bde S4.

MAJ (ret) Andrew Lee, April 8, former member of the 136th Field Artillery Battalion.

Websites of Interest:

You can now find the Ohio National Guard on all of your favorite social media sites. Become a "friend" of the Ohio National Guard at www.facebook.com/theohionationalguard. Come see photos and videos our Soldiers and Airmen at work around the world on <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ohionationalguard/> and www.youtube.com/ohionationalguard. Keep abreast of the latest happenings by following our tweets at www.twitter.com/OHNationalGuard. And as always, come visit our public website for the most comprehensive coverage of Ohio Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen at www.ong.ohio.gov.

Where Are They Now?

LTC Larry Hart and LTC Jeff Denius. Larry Hart served a distinguished career as an Army Aviator and Aviation Logistics Officer with the Army and the ONG. He retired in December, 2008 and currently serves in the Army's Retiree Recall Program as the AAFES Senior LNO in Iraq. He has subsequently agreed to extend another year down range to support Soldiers and Airmen in the combat zone. Larry serves as the conduit between USF-I J-1 and AAFES management in partnering to take care of deployed soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines in OIF. He also serves as an advisor to AAFES balancing their business interests while ensuring that they are taking care of the military.

LTC Jeff Denius enlisted in the ONG in 1986, taking advantage of the ONG College Scholarship Program, and served as an Aviation Soldier in the 1416th Transportation Company through its reorganization to Company D-137 Avn. (AVIM). Larry Hart was the unit's Executive Officer and then Commander during Jeff's tenure. In 1992 Jeff earned an RA commission through the ROTC program at BGSU. Jeff has gone on to have an equally distinguished career as an Armor Officer. Recently in Iraq, 19 years later, Larry and Jeff crossed paths at Joint Security Station War Eagle, located in the Sadr City District of Baghdad. Jeff is now Commander of 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division and is the battle space owner of JSS War Eagle.

Jeff speaks highly of the opportunities he received while a member of the ONG and credits his service in the ONG with providing him many of the leadership skills and attributes that have helped him with his career.

If you would like to be highlighted in the “where are they now” segment, or have other ideas for future newsletter content, please feel free to contact me at 614-336-7336, or by email at james.chisman@us.army.mil. The Ohio National Guard that proudly serves around the world today is a direct reflection of your service.

COL (ret) Jim Chisman
Alumni Affairs Coordinator
Government Contractor